

SEATTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

TO: Bob Scales
Compliance Coordinator

DATE: March 28, 2013

FROM: Kathryn Olson, Director
Office of Professional Accountability

SUBJECT: Paragraph 165 of the Settlement Agreement with the Department of Justice provides:

Paragraph 168 of the Settlement Agreement with the Department of Justice provides:

OPA liaison officers should be identified at each precinct to facilitate matters handled at the precinct level, including those classified for Supervisor Action, to ensure quality and timeliness. OPA will continue to provide final review of all such matters.

As noted in a memorandum dated March 14, 2013, a number of steps have been taken towards identifying precinct liaison officers and the functions they might perform, including: (1) Discussions with OPA staff and the OPA Auditor as to how OPA can work through liaisons to facilitate the handling of Supervisor Action referrals and other matters; (2) Consultation with an Operations Lieutenant to help frame how the liaison position might function from the precinct perspective; and, (3) Meetings with Parking Enforcement Officers and Patrol Sergeants representing all precincts and all watches to gather input on how a liaison officer could support their work with OPA.

The OPA Director has since met with precinct Captains to get their input on the issues related to identifying precinct liaisons. All five Captains (West – Capt. Jim Dermody, East – Capt. Ron Wilson, North – Capt. Robin Clark, South – Capt. Steve Paulsen, and Southwest – Capt. Joe Kessler) agreed that they each initially should perform the liaison function, both to better understand the scope of responsibilities that will be involved and to relieve some of the demand currently being placed on Operations Lieutenants through other reform efforts. However, because Operations Lieutenants would likely take over the function in the future, I believe it is important to involve them in orientation training.

The OPA Director will schedule training with precinct Captains and Operations Lieutenants to review OPA misconduct complaint procedures and timelines; discuss matters that can be handled at the precinct level, including Supervisor Actions and Training Referrals generated from OPA; clarify the types of misconduct that must be reported to OPA and the process for doing so; identify any conduct issues of particular concern to each precinct; and, share precinct specific complaint trends observed by OPA. Some of this orientation will take place with the whole group, while other matters, such as precinct specific trends, will be covered with individual Captains and their Operations Lieutenants. Throughout, we will refine OPA/liaison communication procedures and continue to work on developing the complaint tracking system that will replace AIM. The new system is designed to better facilitate the work of complaint handling at the precinct level, while OPA continues to monitor the process and investigate more serious misconduct allegations.